

Message Text

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43

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TAGS: PFOR, HU, WG, FR, HU

SUBJECT: UNUSUAL HUNGARIAN PRESS REPORT ON EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS

1. HUNGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DAILY NEPSZABADSAG JAN 9 CARRIED INTERVIEW OF EGYPTIAN PRESIDENT SADAT WITH CORRESPONDENT OF KUWAITI PAPER AL SIJASA. SADAT REPORTEDLY COMMENTED ON EGYPTIAN ECONOMIC CRISIS AND SERIOUS NEED FOR OUTSIDE CAPITAL. ACCORDING TO NEPSZABADSAG, SADAT SAID THAT HIS RELATIONS WITH U.S. WERE CREATING MORE FAVORABLE CONDITIONS FOR PURCHASE OF WEAPONS AND, IN THAT CONNECTION, SPOKE APPROVINGLY OF EGYPT'S RELATIONS WITH THE U.S.

2. HIGHLY UNUSUAL FOR HUNGARIAN NEWS MEDIA, HOWEVER, WAS APPARENTLY STRAIGHTFORWARD QUOTE FROM SADAT THAT "FRIENDSHIP STATEMENT SIGNED DURING VISIT TO CAIRO OF FRENCH PRESIDENT GISCARD D'ESTANG IS STRONGER THAN EGYPTIAN-SOVIET FRIENDSHIP TREATY" AND THAT "WE MUST SEEK FRIENDSHIP

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OF THOSE WHOSE ATTITUDE CORRESPONDS TO OUR PURPOSES".

3. MOST OTHER HUNGARIAN NEWSPAPERS CARRIED PORTIONS OF INTERVIEW BUT FAILED TO MENTION INDIRECT SLAP AT SOVIETS. ONE NOTABLE EXCEPTION TO THIS WAS MAGYAR NEMZET WHICH NORMALLY CARRIES WIDEST COVERAGE OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS. IT SAID NOTHING AT ALL ABOUT SADAT INTERVIEW WITH KUWAITI PAPER. HUNGARIAN PRESS IN RECENT DAYS HAS BEEN TAKING POTSHOTS AT EGYPT AND IN SOME RESPECTS NEPSZABADSAG'S TREATMENT OF SADAT'S INTERVIEW COULD BE VIEWED IN THAT VEIN. MOST HUNGARIAN READERS, HOWEVER, WILL INTERPRET NEPSZABADSAG'S TREATMENT OF THE SADAT INTERVIEW AS A DISTINCT SLAP AT THE SOVIETS. WE DO NOT EXCLUDE POSSIBILITY THAT SOMEONE ON PAPER WILL BE DISCIPLINED FOR THIS INDISCRETION.
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